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PAPER**

The Malayan Undergrad

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ORGAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA STUDENTS' UNION

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TUESDAY, 6th MARCH, 1951.

10 CENTS

FINANCIAL SUGGESTIONS ON FOOD NOW READY

To Go Before University Council

The recommendations of the Hostels and Catering Committee are now in the hands of the Acting Vice Chancellor, the Undergrad learnt on Wed., Feb. 28.

Some of the suggestions in the report will go to the Student Welfare Committee, others to the Board of Student Welfare. The Finance Committee, and the University Council will consider the financial aspects. It may be possible to make known the recommendations before they have passed all these stages, the acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. T.H. Silcock, said.

The report contained many helpful recommendations for the future, Prof. Silcock added. One striking fact is that the committee were unanimous in their opinions.

The Committee, which was appointed by the Vice Chancellor himself, was concerned with a number of items. They were to suggest a basis of feeding for the balancing of hostel accounts within the general University budget.

The Committee was to suggest also a valid basis for experiments to improve the methods of catering for the student hostels.

This means that the Committee was concerned with the financial aspects underlying food catering and supply, as these relate to the different hostels.

In addition, the Committee was to examine the working of the Tan Tock Seng scheme and the reasons for its abandonment.

While not agreeing with the financial basis of the TTS scheme or with the reasons for its abandonment, the Committee considered that a repetition of the scheme on a modified basis would be desirable, and made recommendations for such a scheme.

The Hostels and Catering Committee consisted of Mr. J. F. L. Cowin (University Finance Committee), Mr. C.F. de Souza (Food Sec., Social Welfare Dept.), Dr. A.A. Sandosham, Dr. (Mrs.) W. Danaraj, Mr. Robert Ho, Mr. K. Kanagaretnam and Mr. Lim Kee Jin.

DR. KHOO ON X-RAYS

The third of a series of talks on interpretation of X-Rays was given by Dr. F.Y. Khoo on 23rd. February 1951 at the Physiology Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medicine.

This series of talks was organised to give the student starting on his clinical work some idea of X-Rays since the regular course in Radiology is only given in the final year. That a real need is being fulfilled has been fully attested at the meetings held so far.

In this talk Dr. Khoo dealt with X-Ray studies of the heart indicating the various methods used and illustrated his points by films. The angiocardio-grams showing the chambers of the heart was most interesting and though facilities for making such studies are not available locally it still showed the rapid advances in Radiology and of its increasing value in diagnosis. The audience joined the proceedings by asking innumerable questions all of which Dr. Khoo answered to the satisfaction of all present.

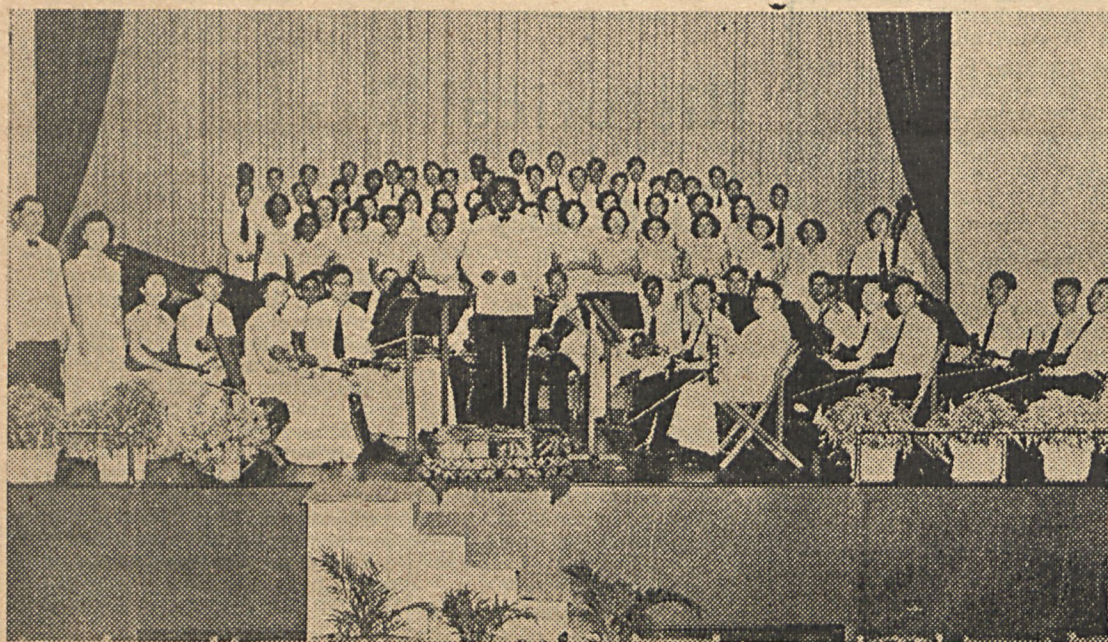
Dr. Khoo will conclude his talk on X-Rays of the heart at the next meeting.

REMINDER

"Antigone", a Greek tragedy, will be staged in Oei Tiong Ham Hall this evening beginning at 8 p.m.

There will also be performance on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Times — 6.45 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Programmes will be sold at the door.



A general view of the combined chorus and orchestra of the University Music Society on stage after their Annual Concert held at Oei Tiong Ham Hall on Saturday Feb. 24. In centre is Mr. Paul Abisheganaden, the conductor. Guest artistes, Miss Lillian Ang (soprano) and Mr. Paterson Hutton (bass) stand on the left. — Photo by Chan Kee Kok.

Storm Over New Arrangements At Harrower Hall

A storm broke over the usually peaceful atmosphere of Harrower Hall week before last, when Mr. Brian La Brooy, a table tennis enthusiast, circulated a protest against the new arrangement of furniture in the lounge.

He contended that the placing of the ping-pong tables at the entrance of the lounge, instead of the far end as heretofore, would lower the standard of table tennis in the Varsity.

He pointed out that during the limited amount of time available for playing the game, the players are mostly occupied with retrieving balls, which escape out to the road through the entrance.

Students going to the lavatories or to their rooms, cut across and distract the players, he maintained.

Opposing Mr. La Brooy were a large number of students, who believe that the lounge is essentially a place for relaxation. Players running about, helter-skelter, disturb the peace and quiet of those who wish to relax.

The new arrangement provides for this. It also provides a quiet corner for the radio-gram, so that music lovers and news listeners are not disturbed.

Mr. Chong Chun Hian, a supporter of the new arrangements, stated that the placing of the radio-gram adjacent to the ping-pong tables was undesirable. The Hall has now a more homely appearance, and there is space for potted plants etc.

The telephone booth is less disturbed and ping-pong players are not inclined to play in a semi-naked state, he added.

STOP PRESS

Latest reports indicate that the Harrower Hall controversy died down after the University was beaten by the Philippine Chinese at Table Tennis. The arrangements remain as they are — with the tables near the entrance.

UNIVERSITY HOSTELS PLANS READY

The Undergrad learns that the new hostels at Dunearn Road are expected to be ready by October 1952. Plans are in the hands of the Municipality, and should be passed soon.

The new Hostels, comprising 100 bungalows, can accommodate about 500 students. The buildings will be fairly close together. It is intended to have central cooking, common refectories and common rooms.

Besides Arts and Science students, it is probable that First Second and possibly Third year Medical students will be accommodated there as well.

No plans have been made about new Hostels for the Ladies, and it is quite certain that they will not be lodged at Dunearn Road with the men.

The Federal and Eu Tong Sen Hostels will be converted into Lecture Rooms. The Tan Tock Seng building may be used as a Departmental building.

STUDENTS MUST PAY UP PROMPTLY

"Students are responsible for seeing that their accounts are not overdue and for paying reasonable attention to notices displayed", says a notice to 19 students, who have not paid their dues.

Dead line for payment is March 17, the notice says, after which the students will be reported to the Senate (March 28) unless they give a reasonable explanation.

Failure to pay up will result in suspension for the rest of the term and from the examination at the end of Trinity Terms.

This action has been necessary because repeated reminders "appear to have no effect", the notice adds.

Varsity Crest Expected In April

"Delay over the design of a University crest has been due to the desire to incorporate into it certain features of the Federation Arms," Professor T. H. Silcock, Acting Vice Chancellor, told the 'Malayan Undergrad.'

"It is essential that the University crest embodies some of its features," Professor Silcock added.

A letter has already been addressed to the Federation Government by Dr. O. H. Withers Payne, who is advising the University on the design of the proposed crest, enquiring as to the expected date for its Arms to be out.

Dr. Withers Payne, legal adviser to the University, is also an expert on heraldry.

Dr. G.A. Allen, Vice Chancellor of the University, will also be consulted, on his return from leave.

The crest is expected to be ready by April 1.

In answer to a question, Professor Silcock said that there would be no objection if the Students Union designed its own crest. It would be advisable, he added, for the Union crest to be based on the pattern of the University crest.

The Students Union could also adopt the University crest as its own, instead of designing one for itself, concluded Professor Silcock.

Introducing:



Mr. Chuang Shou-hwa

Mr. Chuang Shou-hwa, our new lecturer in Zoology, was born in Indonesia, but has spent the greater part of his life abroad. He graduated from Tsing Hua University with a B.Sc. in General Physiology. On receiving a British Council Scholarship he went to Bristol University and did research in the embryology of invertebrates.

Prior to coming here, he lectured in the University of Taiwan. He hopes he will find time to do some work on the embryology and cytology of invertebrates during the long vacation.

A keen photographer himself,

- Mr. Chuang Shou-hwa, lecturer in Zoology.
- Mr. C. Gamba, lecturer in Economics.
- Dr. P.H. Diananda, lecturer in Maths.

Mr. Chuang is especially interested in the microphotography of cells.

* * *

Malayan students are dynamic towards social and political troubles — says Mr. C. Gamba, a new arrival in the Economics Department. Mr. Gamba, a lecturer, was educated in Australia, Germany and France. He obtained his B.A. First class Honours in the University of Western Australia, where he continued his studies and obtained his M.A.

He was lecturer there in Chinese Social, Economic and Cultural History. His research work dealt with the assimila-



Mr. C. Gamba

tion of foreign migrants within the Australian community.

Owing to the fact that he fought in the last war, he was given an opportunity to be trained for a profession. He seized this opportunity and was first returned trainee, and the only one to have been appointed immediately after the degree to an Academic position.

Mr. Gamba has been in Singapore before and spent some time in Indonesia before the war. Since then, he has found the young people more interested in their attitude towards life and political problems.

While he is here, he intends doing research in the social and political aspects of Malayan aspirations for self-government. He is also interested in

the trade-union movements.

He finds our Honours students to be of a very high standard and, in some cases, equal to the best Honours students of Australia.

Mr. Gamba is looking forward to the day when more and more Asian graduates will become lecturers and Professors in this, the University of Malaya.

* * *

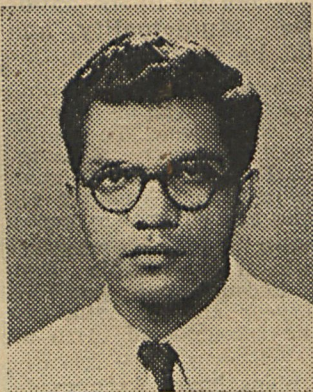
Dr. P.H. Diananda is our newest addition to the Mathematics Department. He lectures both in Pure and Applied Mathematics.

He is a graduate of two famous English Universities; obtaining his B.Sc. from London University in 1939 and his B.A. from Cambridge University in 1946. In 1949 he obtained his doctorate in Mathematical Statistics also from Cambridge.

Dr. Diananda has wide experience in teaching. He taught in the University College and the Technical College of Ceylon.

His special subject is Mathematical Statistics and at present he is doing research in the theory of statistical estimation. One topic dealt with is the estimation of yields from various strains of grain subject to different conditions.

This does not entail tramping over the padi fields of Malaya. Dr. Diananda is concerned only with the pure theory of estimation. The benefit of this research is obvious.



Dr. P. H. Diananda

Apology

Photographer Left Out Of Picture

Our apologies are due Mr. Chan Kee Kok, well-known student photographer, for not acknowledging his photographs in our first edition.

Mr. Chan, who contributed three photographs including Varsity Views No. 1 and 2, is expected to continue his series on page 5.

Historical Society Active

THE University of Malaya Historical Society is neither dormant nor extinct as the impression is given by certain malicious and unfounded rumours, said Mr. Beda Lim, the Society's President, in an interview with the Malayan Undergrad yesterday.

In fact a great deal of planning has gone on behind the scenes which will justify the claim that the Historical Society is very active indeed.

Mr. Beda Lim told the Malayan Undergrad that the Historical Society plans to conduct excursions to outstation places of historical interest, such as Malacca, in addition to holding discussion groups and night talks.

"We also hope to publish a magazine which will contain essays of students.

"These essays must, of course, have been polished up for publication, and must contain an original viewpoint," he added.

The magazine will probably be called Tawarikh: Journal of the University of Malaya Historical Society.

Although the Society's constitution does not provide for an annual presidential address the present committee may set a precedent this year.

"I hope to deliver a presidential address on a theme which has interested me for some time, namely, the Straits of Malacca as a factor in the history of Malaya from the earliest times to the present day," Mr. Beda Lim said.

"The idea came to me after reading Pannikar's 'India and the Indian Ocean' and Eldridge's 'Background of Eastern Sea-Power,' and I shall work on my address during the next vacation," he added.

Asked why the Society did not appear to have held functions during this term the President said that his committee had only recently taken over from the last committee and the delayed handing over had been a great handicap.

The Society possesses records to show that eminent personalities outside the University have actually been invited to address the Society, but their many engagements have prevented them from obliging the Society.

"We could have held picnics, socials and dances, of course, but personally I am against such functions being held by the Historical Society," Mr. Beda Lim said.

Specials For Varsity

A total of 17 students have signed up as Special Constables to defend the University 'in times of emergency', the Undergrad learns.

About 10 others intend to join the defence group, which is mainly concerned with protecting the University library and Science laboratories at Bukit Timah.

Errata

Owing to a misprint in the last edition of the Undergrad the sum of money available in the ISS fund for assisting needy students in the University was incorrectly given as \$400/-. The actual sum available is \$4,000.

New Caterer Is Old Hand

The new caterer for the Bukit Timah canteen is no new hand at the game, the new Joint Hostels Committee announces.

He runs a milk bar at Battery Road and a restaurant in Koek Lane.

He promises to serve a variety of dishes at reasonable prices. Some interesting additions to the present dishes are assured.

the Claybridge Column

I understand that there has been a hullabaloo, hue-and-cry and general conflagration over the "snobbish note" found in this column last week. This was with special reference to the canteen part of it, where it was pointed out, alas, that the habit of lubricating straws would contribute nothing towards the betterment of conditions in canteens.

This hullabaloo is indeed sad, but not unexpected. It is surprisingly easy for a Varsity student body, without a similar body within a radius of roughly 500 miles, to get too used to the idea of its own perfection. When slightly smelly things are pointed out as proof of imperfection in the state of Denmark there is bound to be some stir.

But Confucius say "Malayan student must prepare to be examined on critical basis. He, who cannot stand criticism, is worthless specimen. Question to answer is, how Malayan student stand on international level of comparison? On this level sometimes he no stand—he very much sit!"

Yes, even the wisdom of the sages bids us view ourselves through other eyes. Its difficult but illuminating.

* * *

Take for instance the situation at Bukit Timah, round about team-time where a general disrespect for bread manifests itself most days of the week.

Here, I understand, bread provides the fuel and ammunition for a minor Korean offensive. In the general hall of flying crumbs and slices, a number of interested participants are involved. It is learnt from reliable reports, that a number of neutrals have been hit by ill-aimed missiles.

I cannot say whether their complaints will reach the Excited Nations Organisation, that sits from time to time in the Federal Hall Lounge, but I do ask whether it is not alarming to see bread thrown about in this way, when many of our compatriots are starving in the countries around us.

What makes it still more jolly is the fact that our Union is affiliated to the ISS.

* * *

Talking of food. There is an interesting sight (also at Bukit Timah) during the lunch hour some days of the week. Two medical students have formulated a tradition of their own — lunching off the parapet outside the canteen.

This has not been done before, at least not during the last three years, and one wonders what the reason is?

Are the two ladies concerned too shy to use the canteen, too dissatisfied with the common rooms or the canteen, or does it give them a chance to see more of University life streaming past them, — like the situation in Parisian cafes where the world passes, it is claimed, for all to see?

This question should provide some young, energetic (and diplomatic!) male student with opportunities for research.

H. F. Claybridge.

Tail Piece

Two lecturers in English were motoring along a crowded street, preoccupied in a discussion. As you might guess, they had a smash-up. One was badly injured, the other had only a few scratches.

The more unfortunate man groaned piteously and said "Cuthbert, dear Cuthbert, I'm done for."

"Oh, don't say that, Achibald," the other put in immediately, in a sorrow-stricken voice, "Don't end your sentence with a preposition."

A. G.

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cough
syrup

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A pleasantly flavoured syrup which effectively relieves coughs in bronchitis, asthma, whooping cough, etc. It is suitable for children and adults.

History Department Works For New Book

"To say that I am writing a book on Malayan History is premature," declared Dr. C. N. Parkinson, the Professor of History at the University in answer to a question put to him by the Undergrad.

Prof. Parkinson told the Undergrad that he is engaged in gathering together stray bits of historical material into a connective whole. At a further date these may be put into a book.

"As a matter of fact" he added, "we are merely in the course of making a study of the subject."

Interviewed by the Straits Times on Jan. 29, Prof. Parkinson had stated that the field in Malayan history is one in which comparatively little has been done. "Indeed 'scarcely any serious research has been attempted for the period after 1867' and as such the history of Malaya must finally be written by Malaysians. At the moment all that the History department could do was to prepare the way.

Already this preparation is underway. Three graduate students in history, busy preparing their academic exercises for their degrees are investigating different 'narrowed down' periods of Malaya's history.

Mr. Tan Seng Chye, one of the Honours students, is engaged in the study of the history of Johore between 1855-69; Mr. George Bogaars, another student is making a study into the effects which the opening of the Suez Canal had upon the early trade of Singapore; and Mr. Amminudin Baki, a third, is looking into the 'Perak Debt Levy 1874-83.'

For the most part these men are forced to gather their data from original sources. It is believed that the fruits of their efforts will add considerably to the present meagre knowledge of this country's history.

DEBATE—

A large number of abstentions characterised the Raffles Society/East-West debate held at the Central Hall, Faculty of Medicine, on March 1.

Of the ninety or so people present, 32 voted in favour of the motion "That the United Nations have made a grave blunder in branding China as an aggressor." Seventeen voted against — the rest abstained.

Film Society for Varsity?

"The lack of general enthusiasm shown so far by students contacted, is one of the things seriously delaying the formation of a Film Society in the University of Malaya," said Mr. I.A. MacGregor, Assistant Lecturer in History, who is very interested in the project. Students tended to be vague, when asked what they thought about it, he added.

Mr. Macgregor explained that the purpose of film societies is to bring to the students films of artistic value. These are not only new and old British and American films but, among others, Italian, Russian, French and German ones.

When questioned about Asian films, Mr. Macgregor said that he has not seen any, but has heard that some are of a high standard. There would be every reason to include such films depending upon the availability of subtitles. Otherwise they would be intelligible to one section of the student body only.

He pointed out that practically none of the best Italian, German, French and Russian films were shown publicly in Singapore, and that not all good British and American films were shown here. A film society would serve to fill the gaps, by showing about twelve films a year—four a term.

The organization of the Society would depend on the students themselves. Our reporter then asked him what he thought of allowing non-members to see shows provided by the Society. He replied that in certain Universities in England, members are allowed to take friends, who have to pay a small fee. He could see no reason why

not have that system here too. "But" he added, "the mere fact that they are non-members shows that they are not interested in the Society, doesn't it?"

There are three main problems which have to be faced in the formation of a Film Society. They are the problem of films, the problem of finance, and the problem of equipment.

Considering the problem of equipment it might be possible to borrow a thirty millimetre projector, to screen standard films.

As regards types of films, the British Film Institute is the most attractive supplier. It loans films at reduced rates. But very high demands in England might lead to scarcity. There are other sources, too.

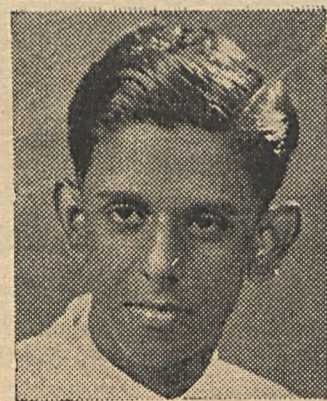
As regards finance it would probably be necessary to rely on subscriptions from members. Mr. Macgregor estimates that if membership totalled two hundred, the subscription might have to be about fifteen dollars a year per person. Grants or donations from other sources might reduce the subscriptions if there was strong student interest.

It may not be till January next that the Society is founded, depending largely on student response.

MEDICALS COMMEMORATE FALLEN COMRADES

A ceremony in commemoration of the eleven students who lost their lives during the Battle of S'pore, was held at Harrower Hall at 1 p.m. on Wednesday 14th Feb. The staff of the Faculty of Medicine students and relatives of the dead were present.

ESSAY WINNER



Pictured above is Mr. S. Subramanian, Final Year Science student, whose 4,000 word essay on "The Evolution of Analytical Methods in Chemistry" won the first prize in essay competition sponsored by the Royal Institute of Chemistry (Malaya Branch). The prize will be in the form of books to the value of \$50.00. The essay is expected to be published in full in both the New Cauldron and the Journal of the Science Society.

Dr. Faris opened the ceremony by reading out a speech in which he recalled Feb. 14, 9 years ago, when 10 Medical students who were giving a proper burial to one of their colleagues killed in the course of Medical Auxiliary Service duty, were killed when some shells exploded in the field they were in.

Mr. Lim Kee Jin, President of the Medical Society, then read out the names of the students killed. These were Miss Mabel Luther, Messrs Yoong Tatt Sin, N.P. Sarathie, E. Baptist, H.E. Corjithan, Ling Ding Ee, Hera Singh Bul, Chan Kok Loon, Chen Kok Kuang, Teow Tiaw Teong and Abdul Hamid bin Mohd. Yusoff.

A wreath was laid at the foot of the bronze memorial plaque by Dr. Faris after which everyone present observed a 2 minute silence.

Bukit Timah Canteen Caterer Goes

Owing to his inability to serve food and drinks at existing prices, the caterer at the Bukit Timah Canteen sent in his resignation to the new Joint Hostels Committee. A new caterer has taken over from the beginning of March.

The former caterer had been running the Canteen from Hilary Term last year.

The new Joint Hostels Committee did not approve of his new prices, such as an increase of three cents for coffee and tea. They were indignant at his raising the price of mee-hoon by ten cents without consulting them first.

The Committee felt that he was not justified in raising his prices to that of Canteens in Town, since he had no overhead expenses.

Further, the Committee demanded that he kept to the following recommendations:

1. A greater variety of food and drinks be served.
2. An improvement in the service, because of the growing dissatisfaction among students over bad service.
3. The Canteen be opened 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. daily.
4. The Committee should be consulted before any change in price is brought into effect.
5. The canteen should not be closed on any day other than during the vacations.

Students in general seem to have welcomed this change of caterer, and many have commented favourably on the decision.

Courteous service and speed seem to be required by students. One student indignantly said "I prefer reading Shakespeare to waiting over half-an-hour for a plate of half-cooked 'mee-hoon'."

CAPTAINS EU TONG SEN

At a meeting of Eu Tong Seng Hostellites recently the following were elected sports officials for the current year.

FOOTBALL:

Captain: D. Pathansali
V. Capt: Wan Ariffin

HOCKEY:

Captain: Phang Sing Eng
V. Capt: Wan Ariffin

CRICKET:

Captain: Chan Boon Teck

Muslim undergrads won their motion, "That Malaya is now ready for self-government," by a majority vote, in a debate between the University Muslim Society and UMNO youths held at UMNO House, Johore Bahru on the 18th. of February 1951.

The debate which was in Malay, attracted a crowd of about 300. The Mentri Besar of Johore was in the Chair.

The undergrads maintained that self-government could not be achieved by the Malays alone but must be worked out, on a basis of equality and common citizenship and nationality among the races who regard Malaya as their home.

Sectionalism and racial communalism must be done away with and the peoples of Malaya should be united with a bond of common aspirations towards nationhood, self-government and, ultimately, independence.

The emergency and the lack of experienced administrators and political leaders should not, they said, be a hindrance to this task. They referred other South-East Asian countries like Burma, India and Indonesia, which had similar experiences, yet had achieved independence.

One undergrad remarked that the words, "Malaya is not fit for self-government," was one that had been phrased by Whitehall and had been instilled into the minds of the people here.

The arguments by the opposition was less convincing, their main point being that independence or self-government could not be achieved unless it was based on a bed-rock of political and economic stability.

The discussion from the floor took a more lively and witty turn. After the debate, Dato Onn gave a short speech giving his views on the points raised during the debate.

BOUQUETS AND MUD

TO say that the Music Society's concert on Feb. 24 was a success would not be quite correct: there were so many shortcomings, however forgivable. But that the Music Society should attain the level of performance that was evident that night is certainly creditable.

On the whole the orchestra was marvellous, though it started off rather nervously with the first movement of the Avison Concerto for Strings in E Minor. The Amoroso in this work came off best, with the orchestra playing confidently, perfectly in time, and completely understanding what the movement was about.

The Haydn number, competently done, should have had more vitality in the Rondo. Probably the running passages were the stumbling block. Very clean bowing was to be heard in the Minuet, and for the excellence of the performance the credit should go to Mr. Paul Abisheganaden, the Society's guest conductor.

In selecting Holst's "St Paul's Suite for Strings" Mr. Abisheganaden laid himself open to the charge of being too ambitious, and indeed the complex rhythms must have proved to be a trifle too difficult for the orchestra.

This Suite should really have been the piece de resistance of the concert, but the poor attack at the beginning spoilt everything. There were, of course, strong passages which the orchestra went through

with boldness and directness, and it was a pity that they did not keep it up throughout the entire work.

The delicate Ostinato was ruined by what appeared to be nervousness, especially in the pianissimo passages. There was never any definiteness where the orchestra was playing pianissimo.

And in the Intermezzo it was obvious that Miss Evelyn Goh, the orchestra's leader, was not in form. Her solo part, with its captivating melody, was thrown away, and all because of uncertainty of pitch and poor tone production. It was such a pity, considering how well she had played it during the rehearsals.

One wonders how Mr. Glan Williams must have felt that night listening to his own Air for Strings. The unpolished performance of this simple but charming work is pardonable because practice on the number began only a couple of weeks before the concert.

The composition is supposed to be written in the Bach manner, but is very unlike Bach. Certainly the first phrase of the melody was un-Bach-ian. There was no contrapuntal writing. Probably Mr. Williams meant to imitate the Air in one of Bach's orchestral suites (the one with the hackneyed Air on the G String melody).

With all its minor faults the orchestra did put up a commendable show, thanks to Mr. Abisheganaden and the

members of the Singapore Chamber Ensemble who lent their strength to it. The orchestra's little failings could irritate only the fastidious critics (like the undersigned).

Although the voices of the guest artists, Miss Lillian Ang, and Mr. Patterson Hutton, did not blend very well in the Bach cantata, the duets were excellently sung. The tenderly played muted-violin obbligato in "I seek Thee, my Life" and Mr. Victor Doggett's fascinating clarinet obbligato in "My Friend is mine," with its bars and bars of semi-quavers, were both pleasurable listening and went well with the vocal parts.

It was really wise on the part of Mr. Abisheganaden to throw in the sopranos in the tenor chorale "Zion hears her watchmen's voices," in which the orchestra played a lilting melody. The tenors alone could never have done it. They needed their roughness to be smoothened by the women's voices.

The difficulty about the cantata was that it opened with such a difficult chorale. The altos did not attack the Allelulia passage with any confidence, and thereafter one just heard a mass of sound. Fortunately, it was possible to end the concert with the easy chorale "Glory now to Thee be given," which drew the applause from the house.

BASSETT HORN

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MARCH 6, 1951.

Emergency And The University

Much publicity has been given to the arrest of a number of University students that took place last month, and there is an impression among the public that the University is harbouring a group of young men who are communists, and therefore is a nest of trouble-makers.

This is most unfortunate because the students are by no means the black sheep which people think they are, but rather a group very conscious of their responsibilities to the country of which they are proud to be the future citizens.

They are too conscious of the amount of liberty given them to study and plan the future of the country to abuse this privilege. For example, they are aware that the government has allowed them the facilities accruing to an academic atmosphere, and appreciate them even more since the facilities were given in spite of the Emergency. They are grateful for the special consideration given them in allowing intellectual freedom in the University.

But many have misunderstood the implications of the letter to the editor printed in the last issue of the Undergrad regarding the Union statement. The statement said that though the Students' Union was providing the detained students with material comforts, it was not doing it out of sympathy for their ideology, if they have any, but because of the fact that they are still students, and members of the Union. The Union statement also said that the Students' Union dissociated itself from the Malayan Communist Party and any other illegal organisation. But it gave the impression that the Union as a body was dissociating itself from an ideology which in its original form should be considered an academic item of topical as well as historical interest. Therefore the letter.

The misinterpretation of the letter as evidence of the leftist tendencies of the students should be corrected. The students of the University are first and foremost students. And as students, they respect truth and insist on the clarification of any misrepresentation of truth. It was in that spirit that the letter was written and published. It was by no means the expression of sympathy for an ideology the people of this country have outlawed.

The University may not have shown active support of the Emergency, but that does not justify the accusation that the University is nourishing by its tolerance and non-political nature men of little use to the country, and even a group of malcontents.

The University must be an institution free from political bondage of any kind, enjoying the advantages of academic detachment.

It is true that the students have not participated in anti-bandit activity. But that does not mean that they are not supporting government action, and therefore, of no use to the community. And surely, to think that their passivity is a sign of non-cooperation and even antagonism betrays a narrow-mindedness which should have no place in an enlightened democratic country.

The Emergency is a problem all in this country have to face. Just because the students are loyal to their friends who have been detained, and the University tolerant of free discussions on political subjects, there is no cause for hysteria.

It is vital that the public understand the position of the University as an academic institution building the intellectual resources of the country, and not continue to spread malicious rumours condemning something established by them, for them, and populated by their own flesh and blood.

Current Inflationary Tendencies in Malaya

by A Special Correspondent

In the midst of prosperity in the primary industries—rubber and tin, Malaya faces inflation with prospects of labour disputes and maldistribution of resources. Left unchecked the present trend could easily lead to runaway inflation and the breakdown of the country's whole economy.

The present inflation can be mainly attributed to the large favourable balance of trade, the huge emergency expenditure, higher salaries, bulk payments for war damage, etc.

The trade balance arises from the high prices prevailing for rubber and tin and the comparatively lower value of imports entering the country, through restrictions on import from hard currency areas. Added to this is the general rise in world prices due to uncertain political conditions.

Often the note circulation is a rough guide to inflationary pressure, and we find marked increases over the past 12 years: 1938, \$104 millions; 1942, \$221 million; Jan. 1947, \$412 million; Dec. 1950, \$600 million. Linked to the increase in note circulation is the considerable expansion of credit by commercial banks which further intensifies the boom conditions.

In pre-war conditions expansion of the note circulation on this scale would have led to increased incomes, with increased imports and prices. The resultant rise in export prices would have caused an adverse balance, with a reduction in sterling securities to back the notes and this would have automatically led to a fall in the note circulation, for the reduction in assets would not permit increased note issues.

Under present conditions, however, the rise in prices of exports has not affected demand and Malaya's exports continue to rise. On the other hand, imports through exchange control and shortages of supply have not been able to match the increased earnings from the exports. In 1950 there was a favourable balance of \$1068 million compared to an adverse balance of \$162 million in 1949.

Thus even if there are no marked shortages in goods, considerable inflationary pressure exists, because of the increased money available in the country having to purchase the same quantity or even less goods than were available before marked inflation set in. We thus have "too much money chasing too few goods." Prices inevitably rise, and the stage has been reached where government must take forceful measures to prevent worsening of the situation.

One of the most effective measures to check the present inflation would be the release of more U.S. dollars — after all, Malaya is the chief dollar-earner in the Empire and the United Kingdom's dollar position has improved. The bigger dollar expenditure with increased purchases from hard-currency areas will see an immediate improvement in the internal trade position and result in lowered prices generally.

A useful source of imports would be Japan which is in a position to supply Malaya with urgently required materials and equipment at relatively cheap prices. The freeing of more dollars for purchases from Japan, and the recent inclusion of Malaya in the European Payments Union should lead to more goods coming in if this programme is effectively carried out. At the moment when America and Western European countries are gearing for war production, Japan is potentially our most desirable supplier, and if political considerations are pushed to the background, she should be able to assist greatly both in the anti-inflationary programme, and towards supplying Malaya with sorely needed industrial equipment and supplies.

The crying need for Malaya is increased taxation and a

substantial budget surplus to mop up purchasing power. In view of the high expenditure which is to some extent unavoidable—increased wages, salaries, emergency expenditure — planning for budget surplus calls for some sacrifice from those who can best afford it. However, if the meek manner in which the Federal Legislative Council modified its plans on the rubber tax, in the face of pressure from interested parties, is any criterion, one cannot be too hopeful of much sacrifice. What the country needs at this juncture, nevertheless, is substantial increases in income-tax higher export-taxes, excess-profits taxes, import duties on luxuries, taxes on transfers of immovable property to mop up excess purchasing power. The collection of these taxes might involve certain administrative difficulties which are not unsurmountable. Nor are these taxes likely to kill trade as commercial interests would possibly suggest.

This, however, seems incompatible with the Federal government's desire to maintain income-tax levels as they stand at present. Apparently it prefers to spread the tax structure over the entire economy rather than according to the individual's ability to pay as in progressive countries.

Apart from direct measures like taxation, government could also encourage voluntary savings by more attractive rates of interest in the Post Office Savings Banks and in Government Loans. Commercial banks could be approached to limit further credit expansion.

Since the effect of such measures as these is likely to take some time to be felt, it is necessary for government to take steps to alleviate the plight of the lower-income groups through the provision of additional allowances rather than through subsidies on essential commodities which might rise to huge proportions. It is a waste for government, though, to raise wages or

allowances if it is unable or unwilling to prevent rises in wages causing higher prices. And this is what it does when price controls are scorned at as being purposeless without public co-operation.

There is without doubt a considerable degree of truth in the claim that price control is ineffective without public co-operation. But, the administration will be failing in its duty if it does not or cannot take effective measures to secure a proper distribution of goods at reasonable price-levels. If the administration is incapable of achieving a fair degree of success with price controls at present, one dreads to think how much more ineffective it could be if hostilities should break out in this area.

A case for price control arises as long as shortages of serious proportions exist at current prices. Demand has to be controlled through rationing and price control, and supply has to be increased through increased imports. Even if the present situation does not warrant far-reaching measures of this nature, one can visualise the need for being prepared for such a situation if world conditions deteriorate. As such, price controls with deterrent punishment of offenders is a necessary evil under present conditions, though nobody really likes the idea of controls.

Finally it must be borne in mind that any amount of government intervention will not have the desired effects unless consumers realise that they have a vital part to play in checking inflation. A disregard for the other person's needs often leads to willingness to pay exorbitant prices as long as the individual has the money to spend. Ultimately all are affected. Thus one hopes that the beginnings of a consumer's resistance movement in Singapore will meet with success and will be followed by similar action in the Federation, for the task is one not for government to tackle alone.

To succeed in combating inflation, firm government policy is essential coupled with public co-operation. Will we have even one of the two? That is a question that remains unanswered.

MARCH in Malayan History

In the early days of Singapore, it seemed that the opinion of rulers and leaders was that the best thing for a fire was to allow it to burn itself out. Convicts, troops and volunteers were the motley gathering who attacked this red menace. However, things appeared to be getting too hot, for by March 2, 1881, it was decided to establish the Singapore Fire Brigade. This organisation was mainly voluntary, — at least, the affairs were — and it seemed that the first Brigade was the training ground for future Governors. Captain H.E. McCallum was later Governor of Ceylon, Mr. F.A. Swettenham, Governor of the Straits Settlements, and Mr. E.M. Merewether, Governor of Sierra Leone.

Singapore has rarely been gifted with more than one of a good thing, and this tradition was apparent as far back as the beginning of the century. Then, the grumble was for cheap and rapid transport, because suburbs were springing up like "lallang." However, one public transport company was formed. This was the Singapore Electric Tramways Company founded in March 1905. The enterprise proved uneconomical in the face of growing motor-transport, and whittled away gracefully.

Continuing the history of transport, the next red letter

day in "automobilism" was March 1907. Prior to this date, no organisation of road transport was invented. The "motor velocipede", as one merchant called it, was allowed to career all over the place to the annoyance of gharrydrivers and mounted persons but to the great wonderment of the little Chinese street boys. In the same month the Singapore Automobile Club was formed with H.E. Sir John Anderson as President. This organisation was more in the nature of a union, and from the outset was intent mainly in guarding the interests of motor car owners.

A familiar resort of the Singapore landscape-lover, the McRitchie Reservoir, did not bear that name in its early life. It was originally the Kallang River Reservoir and was the outcome of the agitation for a good fresh water supply not only because the population was growing rapidly, but also because the greater number of ships calling at the port demanded a regular cheap supply of water as a condition of their patronage. So, on March 26, after some 12 years of construction, Kallang River Reservoir was opened, and, together with the Thompson Road Reservoir, supplied the town, for the time being, with all the water it needed.

G. B. P.

Lim Thean Soo's

REPLY to Cheval

"To say quite simply, the critic has one pre-eminent task of easing or widening or deepening our response to poetry. There are, or course, many ways of performing this task. But no critical method will satisfactorily perform it, if there is no respect both for the poem and for the reader. This should not need saying; yet we too often find in criticism today, passages in which dishonest controversy, undraped narcissism or glue-pot jargon reveal an attitude towards the reader of dogmatic contempt." ('The Poetic Image'—C. Day Lewis Jonathan Cape, 1947).

At last a criticism of my recent publication has appeared, one which I must say is disappointing and inadequate as literary criticism. The writer has only given a superficial, unprofitable and rather malicious opinion of Mr. Wang Gungwu's verses and mine. In so doing he has shown that he has no understanding of his responsible task whatsoever. The only valuable contribution which he has made is to touch on some trivial points about our use of theme, metaphor, and diction. Other than this, neither has he helped in interpreting our work to the reader nor has he revealed our main weaknesses in our poems by careful examination of them.

This not too discerning critic has hit on the brilliant idea of criticising us under camouflage. Snug in the shelter of a French-sounding pen-name (the influence of Western culture of which he deplores) he is ready to make personal remarks about us. He assumes that we consider ourselves 'different' just because we have written verses. He goes on to say that our 'winning fame and recognition abroad' is a 'greater joke' referring as example Mr. Wang's visit to the Philippines.

I wonder what all this irrelevant gossip has to do with a critical examination of our verses. Though I am not a psycho-analyst, I have a suspicion that Cheval is suffering from some complex.

Cheval's ignorance is evident by his foggy statements about my verses. He talks of 'well-worn pessimism' in my work. If he refers to my major piece 'The Well' then his remark is entirely unjustified. That verse has the fulfilled voice of hope and faith in the wilderness of

our war-torn and degenerating world. 'Waiting' is not pessimistic — it is the re-creation of a bitter experience. In 'The Moon' the picture of 'a dark, drifting world' is lighted up by the beauty and remoteness of the moon. Where, I ask of Cheval, is the pessimism of my verses?

However, Cheval's accusation of 'sickly sentimentality' is in part justified. On the other hand this is hardly applicable to 'Pulse,' for Mr. Wang's verses are seldom sentimental. Cheval does greatly make sweeping statements. He is the first critic to give a joint criticism of the works of two writers different in idea, sensibility and style. However, we must admit that he can sometimes emerge from his denseness to detect sentimentality in my verses.

May I remind Cheval that many of the early poems of modern writers have sentimental qualities.

In one of his truly critical paragraphs Cheval has by chance hit on a good point. He complains of our use of archaic diction — I am sure that he refers more to me than to Mr. Wang (illustrating by this way his silliness in trying to criticise two writers with the same statements). I acknowledge this error in certain poems only. However, in other verses like 'From Behind' and 'To the Moon' such poetic language is obviously necessary. In 'The Well' too it is relevant to the mythical theme.

It is a pity that Cheval after throwing off his spark of wisdom is himself soon extinguished in darkness. He attacks Mr. Wang's use of 'opiate' as a verb. Is there anything wrong in this? I am

Through the Spectroscope

by Pelandok

PLANNED EDUCATION

Recently, the editor of the Singapore Free Press spoke words of wisdom when he brought up the problem of educating our children along right lines. What is the use of spending so much money trying to rid this country of bandits if our budding generation has easy access to Communist literature? It is no use trying to eradicate advocates of a pernicious ideology if, on the other hand, we help to produce more advocates by our neglect — by a lack of control of what our children read.

Russia has been very successful in planned education and there is no reason why we should not succeed. Russia, according to reports reaching here through political information bureaux of our democratic countries, tells her citizens what to read, and in a short period of 20 years, has eliminated advocates of a system opposed to that which prevails there. Of course, elimination included, besides control of education, security forces and detention camps. The inclusion of planned education made things complete.

We, who are faced with a similar threat to our society, should adopt the same methods, and we are sure to get the same results. There is no harm learning from Russia what good there is. There is good in every evil, and, in the words of our great, though perhaps unconscious philosopher, Shakespeare,

"Thus may we gather honey from the weed
And make a moral of the devil himself."

AN UPRIGHT COLUMN

Columns have their uses, chief of which is holding up

some structure. The Claybridge Column is no exception. However, when columns begin to respond to tones, it is time we sat up and listened. In the last issue, the Claybridge Column said, with common debating strategy, ".....you know as well as I do that the tone of the Undergrad so far has suggested that there is nothing more perfect than the student." Now, that is a great thing to say, even for a column. I too have been reading the Undergrad, and the impression of my little mind is that students here are far from perfect. Else, why all the attack on the 'apathy' of students.

Characteristic of its function of upholding things, the Column laments, "Blame the authorities. Blame the government." Oh no! Let's blame ourselves. It is always diplomatic to blame ourselves. Nobody gets hurt but ourselves. Even if the fault is actually on somebody else, let's blame ourselves. It's noble, it's diplomatic.

The Column saw students "spatter the (canteen) floor with assorted drinks and parts of drinks." What actually happened was that a few drops from a reed were spilt on the floor. The Column believes that this is sufficient reason why better canteen services and conditions cannot be achieved.

What we need is a receptacle for unwanted drops of drinks — and that is service. Perhaps the Column knows of some better place for such things. It must have learnt, by observing formal dinners, that the best place for any unwanted thing is either one's stomach or one's pockets.

The Column was far from being snobbish. If it did appear to some, I must say that it must have been unintentional.

VARSITY VIEWS-2



MORNING Look at Faculty of Medicine, Sepoy Lines. — Photo by Chan Kee Kok.

afraid that Cheval is unacquainted with Shakespeare and in the charm of using a word unexpectedly in the context. 'Opiate' is a noun which has the '-iate' ending of a verb and so its use as a verb is ingenious 'a usage idiomatically and philologically quite unacceptable' is therefore sheer nonsense!

I am glad that Cheval has introduced the topic of Malayanism in our verses, though rather unintelligently and haphazardly. He says that Mr. Wang and I do not know 'the significance of the scenes' which we use. He also accuses us of attempting 'to convince the reader of the writers' loyalty to and understanding of his land.' I am afraid that Cheval is blundering again. I have thought not a little on the subject of Malayanising poetry and have always advocated a cautious approach to the subject. Here are some of my ideas on it: (1) The English language will have to be the medium of Malayan literary works, if not for all time, at least for sometime. (2) Any Malayan poetry is not to be the vehicle of national or racial propaganda. Poetry should not aim at teaching us to be loyal to our country—else we shall have mediocre verse-writing of little universal value. (3) Our stress should be on a gradual synthesising of various cultures through a suitable literary medium. (4) There should be research into Malayan folklore, history, and culture as material for poetry. (5) There should not be the superficial infusion of local scenes and objects into poetry—else we shall have third-rate physical poetry. (6) An early start should be made to set a tradition. In this respect my praise goes to Mr. Wang for being the daring pioneer into the tigerland of poetry.

Back to Cheval, the pseudo-critic! Except for one or two good literary remarks, he is unduly off his point in his criticism. His ignorance of the function of literary criticism is only too apparent. He has not helped to enlighten the reader of our verses. Nor has he shown more profound weaknesses, if any, by actual examination of our verses. He has made vague assertions ('no better and no worse than the collection that came out last year') and accuses us of imbibing Western literature superficially (little realising that literature is universal and deals with the basic problems of humanity). Again he is not aware that in the world of poetry one is not a business man overvaluing and undervaluing the commerce of ideas. Revealing his bigoted nature he makes scurrilous remarks on our character—whether in spite or envy, I neither know nor care.

The State of the Union

by The Man in the Lounge

U.M. Students' Union Music Society

A very noticeable change has taken place in all the hostels since the New Student's Council came into office. The hostels are now talking about the welfare of their units, and on the whole seem to be taking an active interest in the management and running of their hostels. They seem to have suddenly been imbued with a new spirit—a spirit of self-pride and duty, and this feeling has been the cause of many changes within the hostels. Further the hostel committees have even undertaken to organise inter-unit games, and this policy will, I think, be gladly accepted by the U.M.A.U., who have also decided to cater for more inter-unit games. The Students' Council should be congratulated for this change of policy, especially the Constitution Revision Committee.

U.M. Athletic Union

The last issue of the Undergrad certainly seemed to have a lot to say about the decision of the U.M.A.U. to postpone the Annual Athletic Meet to October. While some members had the impression that the Annual Athletic Meet was shelved, others even went to the extent to say that the Annual Athletic Meet was cancelled. As far as I am aware, I do not think that neither U.M.S.U. or U.M.A.U. work according to the academic year, and as such U.M.A.U.'s decision to postpone the Athletic Meet to October does not mean that Athletics for this year has been cancelled.

With the new executive committee of the U.M.A.U. getting down to work, some changes have been observed. There seems to be some revival of the spirit that existed in the old Colleges, and to-day we do certainly seem to see more members going down to play games. Glad to say, the Non-Hostelites have at last been able to field a cricket XI, and I hear that they are also fielding teams in all other departments.

I was rather surprised to hear that certain quarters have started inter-block games for challenge cups, and that some sections have even gone further to organise Faculty games against outside teams. While the sponsors of this idea may argue that this will mean fostering the sporting spirit within the University, I beg to differ from them. I believe that games with outside clubs or institutions should be organised by the U.M.A.U. and should be University games, and not Faculty games. I sincerely hope that U.M.A.U. will not support these ideas of inter-block challenge games or Faculty games with outside clubs.

The Music Society should be congratulated for their successful concert. While many may argue that the standard was not of the best, yet I think, considering that all who took part are amateurs in the true sense, and that they had little time to spare for practices, that the co-ordination between orchestra and choir was excellent. The orchestra should be commended for their remarkable renderings of certain pieces.

The supper that followed, was I hear, a great success, and the guests had a lot to say about the excellence of the concert.

Raffles Society

It is the opinion in certain quarters of the Union that Raffles Society could be more active. I heartily agree with this view, for I believe that this Society should be the leading Society of the Undergraduate body. They should organise more debates, talks, and in general cater more for the promotion of culture (Eastern or Western). I saw a notice some time ago about the inception of an Arts Section, but that idea seems to have died a natural death.

At long last, the Society is organising a debate, and while we all look forward to this, may I suggest that the Raffles Society should wake up from that dreamy slumber.

International Student Service

The lounge has been the scene of meetings between members of the undergraduate body and the Secretary General of the I.S.S. But strange as it seems, many members of the student body are not fully aware of the objects of the I.S.S. I think that members of our Union who are serving on the I.S.S. Committee (Malaya Branch) should set about the task of informing the members of this Union about the working and purpose of the I.S.S.

The last issue of the Undergrad contained an article by Mr. R. Bisley, who, after his tour of the neighbouring countries, has come to the conclusion that we in Malaya are well off compared to places like Dacca and Burma. If this is true, (and I believe it is true,) could not we, students of this University, do something to relieve the sad plight of some of our colleagues in India and Burma. The local I.S.S. should start a fund immediately for this purpose, and it should also direct its attention to needy members within our University also.

Affairs of State

A Short Story
by Beda Lim

"WE hold these truths, sir, to be self-evident," said Mr. Tan, the delegate from Penang, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Mr. Tan paused, while the assembly applauded lustily.

When the clapping died down and only the whirring of the fans was to be heard, he continued.

"That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

A murmur ran through the house and suddenly Mr. de Souza, the Kuala Lumpur delegate, sprang up and shouted:

"Mr. Chairman, I protest. I absolutely disagree with the previous speaker."

"I hold that it is essential for the proper conduct of these sessions that delegates should exercise the utmost tact."

"It was most undiplomatic on the part of the previous speaker to suggest that the people of a country have a right to overthrow its government, and, in view of the present political situation, I move that the speaker be made to withdraw his statement."

"That's an insult, Mr. Chairman," screeched Mr.

Krishna, of Muar, above the rumbling that rose to the air.

"We are not here to discuss what is diplomatic or not diplomatic."

"We want to arrive at some sensible way in which we may run our affairs here, and I think it is most unfair of Mr. de Souza to ask you to call upon Mr. Tan to withdraw his statement."

"I regard it as an encroachment upon the right of delegates at this conference to present their views without interference."

The chairman banged on the table.

"Mr. Krishna, he said, 'I am afraid you are rather putting that a bit too strongly. I feel that inasmuch as Mr. Tan is a representative of an important Settlement he has been given ample opportunity to air his views and that insofar as Mr. de Souza is also a not unworthy member of this assembly, he has every right to say what he thinks, and as such, I cannot admit your protest. I will therefore call upon Mr. Tan—'

Immediately Mr. Pondicherry of Johore Bahru stood up.

"Mr. Thuraiaraja—Mr. Chairman, I mean—' he began, 'I rise to draw your attention to a point of order and to remind you of article —'

The chairman banged on the table and said:

"Mr. Pondicherry, I would ask you to refer to article forty, section one, of the standing orders of this conference which reads: the chairman of the conference shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the conference; whereforebeit, his decision

upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the conference."

"Will you please explain what that means, Mr. Chairman?" asked someone in the corner of the room.

"It simply means, my dear Mr. Chang, that the chairman —"

"Mr. Pondicherry," the chairman said, "I must ask you to address the chair."

"Please do, Mr. Chairman," replied Mr. Pondicherry.

"Will you please speak to the chair?" the chairman said.

"Certainly, Mr. Chairman," said Mr. Pondicherry, "I was on the point of explaining to Mr. Chang the meaning of the article you quoted."

"I do not think that will be necessary, Mr. Chairman," said somebody in the centre of the room, "as it will only serve to hold up the issue. I believe that this will no doubt be to the advantage of such persons as Mr. Pondicherry, whose only aim is the obstruction of these proceedings."

"Mr. Chairman, I protest," Mr. Krishna shouted, "I would draw the attention of the house to article thirty-nine, section thirteen, of the standing orders of this conference, which reads: a member must not (a) impute improper motives to any other member; (b) make a personal charge against any other member; (c) use offensive expressions; (d) indulge in personalities."

"I cannot see what that has got to do with it, Mr. Krishna," said the chairman.

"Neither can I, Mr. Krishna," said the man in the centre of the room. "Are you trying to throw wool into our eyes?"

"Certainly not, Mr. Abdullah. What do you think I am?" replied Mr. Krishna.

"Will you please address the chair," said the chairman banging on the table.

Mr. Krishna said:

"My apologies, Mr. Chairman."

"As I was saying, the article I quoted is completely relevant to the occasion. Mr. Abdullah has made a very serious accusation involving an imputation of improper motives to a member of this conference, and under the provisions of the standing orders I propose that he be suspended from attendance at this conference until such time —"

"Mr. Chairman," interrupted Mr. Chang, "this digression has gone far enough. No one seems to have thought of consulting Mr. Tan regarding the all-important question of his resolution which he was reading before these interruptions began. There is such a thing as a right of reply, as stated under article thirty-



nine, section ten, of the standing orders, which reads: the member who originated a substantive proposition may reply after all other members have had an opportunity of making their observations and before the question is put."

"Mr. Chairman, this article is utterly irrelevant to the subject under consideration," said Mr. Pondicherry.

"Enough of this nonsense gentlemen," said the chairman, "I have been at great pains to avoid the disorder so conspicuous at previous sessions and I will brook no further disturbance of any kind. I will call upon Mr. Tan to proceed, and I would remind you all that he is not to be interrupted while he is speaking. Mr. Tan, will you proceed?"

The assembly applauded while Mr. Tan rose to his feet.

"Mr. Chairman," he began, "I wish first of all to elaborate upon my earlier statement and say that the institution of government is not a contract, but a law; that the depositories of the executive power are not the people's masters, but its officers; that the people can set them up and pull them down when it likes; that for them there is no question of contract, but of obedience; and that in taking charge of the function the State imposes on them they are doing no more than fulfilling their duty as citizens, without having the remotest right to argue about the conditions."

"When therefore the people sets up a government, what it enters into is not an undertaking."

"The administration is given a provisional form, until the people chooses to order it otherwise."

Cries of "Hear, hear!" rang out.

The delegates began applauding and many banged their tables.

The chairman's own bangings and cries of "Order! Order!" went unheeded.

The noise from the assembly room drifted out of the windows into the night, across the dark quadrangle, to Dr. Froyt-Random's office.

The doctor, who was working

late that night, looked up and then turned up his wrist to see the time.

He shut the file he was reading and reached towards the row of buttons on his desk.

"I'll be going home now," he said to the attendant who came in. "Give them another five minutes and then pack them off to bed. Tell them they may play politicians again tomorrow night if they are good."

Dr. Froyt-Random left the office and went through the dim corridors.

He paused to light his pipe when he got to the gloomy porch, lighting up, for a moment, the brass plate on the wall, which read: Klunies Mental Hospital.

She in Red

A Short Short Story

She was neat and pretty, much sought after by the students. One boy said that she was his hope and inspiration. Another complained that too often she was in the company of girls. All, however, agreed that she was elusive and were eager to spend a few hours with her daily.

One afternoon I found her sitting on a desk in the library. I whispered to her, "Aha! I haven't seen you for a long time. How about a rendezvous with me this evening?" She remained silent. I interpreted this as consent and took her out.

That evening was profitably occupied with her. I learnt a great deal about her from her. In fact when I told my friends about her charm and intelligence, they tried to persuade me to give them a chance of knowing her better. "You can't monopolize her all the time. What'll the girls say?", piped in 'Slug-go'. "Oh shucks, she is mine now," I replied, "and I intend to keep her — at least for some time." "How possessive!", remarked another colleague and he walked away in disgust.

Two weeks later I left her for good. We did not quarrel. Nor did I feel sorry for parting with her. I had had enough of her and was thoroughly bored. Meanwhile I could imagine her ears being caressed by the rough hands of Chow Pow.

Lately a girl presented her to me again: "Allow me to acquaint you with an old friend. Long time no see her! I took her gently by the hand. She was blushing red all over. 'Who is she?' I asked, pretending to be ignorant. 'As if.....Don't you recognise your pal 'The Physical Basis of Geography' by Woolridge and Morgan?'"

LIM THEAN SOO



"That must be the same bee..."

RHYME IN TIME

Fragments Of A Waste Land

I

Oh, where, oh where has my lion's tail gone?
Oh, where, oh where can it be?

Mrs. Mildred Barrington-Smith,
Wife of a V.I.P. in the C.S.O.,
President of the Inner Wheel,
Pillar of the Tanglin Club,
Diner at Raffles Hotel,
Refused to add to the birth-rate.
But led a busy life

As
Social Welfare worker,
Blood Transfusion donor,
SATA committee member,
Golf-ball hunter,
And animal-lover.
And wondered why the natives were ungrateful—
(They only pick their noses and chew betel.)
Oh, to be in England—
Pavement-stuck queues,
Eight-penny meat rations,
And not many nylons—
But the policemen are solid and real.

Eeny, meeny miny mo,
Catch a bandit by his toe.
If he howls, let him go.
(Three bandits were killed in the Federation yesterday.
Fifty ran away.)
Feed him, pay him, don't say No,
For No spells O-U-T.

II

'Man is but a reed, the most feeble thing in nature; but he is a thinking reed.'—Pascal.

Confucius sat in the cabaret
And picked at a melon seed.
The stale, sharp-prodding light
Fished up
A slant-eyed cheongsam reed.
Will no one tell me what she sings?

Baby, it's cold outside!
Old sir, your pocket's full, I know,
So cuddle by my side.

What d'ye lack? What d'ye lack?
Certificates, forms and passes,

Identity cards and licenses?
All printed on dollar bills.
Your name for an S.I.T. flat?
An O.B.E. for your brat?
Just count the dollar bills.
Culture with capital C?—
It's yours for a moderate fee.

The dollar provides all your thrills.
The dollar will cure all your ills.
Venite adoremus.
Venite adoremus.

III

Let us now praise famous men
And our fathers that begat us...

Alphonso d'Albuquerque,
Francisco d'Almeida,
Ruy de Araujo.....
The river Rajahs,
The Hang-Tuahs,
Drake and Hawkins,
Lancaster, Van Diemen,
And the incomparable Raffles.

For these went down to the sea in ships
And did business in great waters.....
Rhinoceros' horns and lices' liver,
Sandalwood, ebony, ivory, camphor,
Tortoise-shells, dragon's blood, pepper,
Peacock's tails, opium, tin and rubber.....
Forever and ever, Amen.

Government of the people, by the people.....
Who are the people?
Tida-apa-la!
Mana boleh-la!

Let's get out of this place.
And I on USIS news am fed
And drink the coke of Paradise.
Saikerei!
Long live Emperor MacArthur!

And now from Western windows only
A pale uncertain light is shed;
Merdeka's chant comes faint and slowly,
But eastward, look! the stars flame Red!
HEDWIG AROOZOO.

CHINESE LYRIC GEMS

Sky-end Thoughts of Lipo

by Tufu

The sky-end wind is cool, sir,
Are your memories cool, too?

When will your swallows come, sir,
Now the lake-streams are full?

Your brush has flouted fate,
Whose wild spirits at the passes wait
For him who rips the royal pool;
You must now share the Milow waters
And sing of some common wrong
With him who paid for the same rippling song.
Translated by Thot Anubis.

Tufu, the great Chinese poet of the T'ang Dynasty, was touched by the beginnings of autumn winds to write the above poem. His mind goes to his fellow-poet, Lipo, who had met with disfavour through the strength of his brush and the thickness of his ink. Lipo had been sent off to some remote village far to the south for having been too frank.

Tufu remained north, waiting for news of genius forsaken. He sighs over Lipo's misfortune, and asks him to contact the soul of the neglected Han Dynasty poet, Chuey Yuen, who had been similarly disfavoured, and had finally ended his life in the Milow river.

The swallows are supposed to bring news of a distant friend, and the lake-streams tell of the accumulation of grief. As for the Milow waters, they are symbolic of the frustration of human wisdom.

LETTERS... to the Editor

FOOD PROBLEMS STUDIED

Dear Sir,

I wish to refer to two letters on the subject of "Feeding" in the *Malayan Undergrad* of Jan. 31 and Feb. 19, 1951, and state that these writers would not have made the misleading statements if they had followed Union affairs closely. Neither would you have made the statement that "no official information has been received regarding the Committee" if you had looked up Union papers over the last two months.

"Hostelite" in his letter states that the scheme was peremptorily terminated without an explanation and this abruptness was unjustifiable and unwarranted. I am in full agreement with him on that point but where I disagree is that his protest is so belated because the University authorities had been represented. It was with the intention of clearing the air over the Tan Tock Seng Hostel Scheme that the "University Hostels and Catering Committee" was appointed by the Vice Chancellor. Among the other terms of reference were the study of financial problems associated with catering and to suggest a basis of experiment for improvement of hostel food. This Committee comprised student representatives, staff members, graduates, and members of the public.

The Vice-Chancellor had agreed to the formation of this Committee in November 1950 and was so reported to the Students' Council. This was published in the Council minutes in November 1950. The decision was also reported in the Annual Report of the Union on page 4.

As it was necessary to get the consent of a number of persons to serve on this Committee, the Committee was not formally appointed till the end of November 1950. It held its first meeting on December 11, 1950. It met on a number of times since then. The Committee was required to study a good deal of figures and data and consider various aspects of catering before coming to their

conclusions.

In my Presidential address at the Annual General Meeting on 27th. January 1951 I stated that the Report of the Committee will be in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor early in February 1951. I wish to state now that I have already signed the final draft of the report and this should now be in the hands of the University authorities. I have also informed Mr. L. S. Sodhy, the present President, that the Committee has completed its work.

I hope that the second part of this letter answers "Thirsting for Justice" who wishes to know when the Committee will begin to function. It has begun and ceased to function. K. KANAGARATNAM.

Malayan Students' Party Not Allowed

Dear Sir,

Prof. T. H. Silcock in a statement to the Press, gave certain reasons for not allowing the formation of the Malayan Students' Party. The reasons were most amusing, particularly since they come from a mind specially trained in the intricacies of analysis and synthesis.

He stated that since the sponsors of the M.S.P. envisaged an organisation with extra-University activities, its formation should not be allowed. A further reason was the danger of communal organisations being formed in the University.

With regard to the first reason, it is indeed a pity that Prof. Silcock should want us to progress in isolation. Surely, if one of the main justifications for the existence of the University is to inspire and influence activity around it, the sponsors are doing the right thing. Far from endangering the good name of the University, the M.S.P., by inspiring political activity within and without, would be enhancing its good name.

As for the second, it is hard

No Amusement Paper Please

Sir,

If your paper is a bigger and brighter paper let me tell you that this is only because you had the advantages of a larger staff and a printer who had a better selection of type-faces. These advantages the former editorial boards never had; they had to produce the paper all by themselves, three lonely people doing all the dirty work while the Union sits back and criticizes.

All the same, congratulations! And for God's sake don't turn the paper into an amusement paper.

Yours, etc.,

APPRECIATIVE

Letters to the editor using pseudonyms, without name and address attached as a sign of good faith, will not be published.—Ed.)

for me to conceive how the possible formation of communal organisations should stand in the way of allowing the M.S.P. to be formed. Stranger still is the reason when we consider the fact that one of the main aims of the M.S.P. is to fight communalism in Malayan politics.

However, if there is a genuine desire among some students to form political organisations on communal lines, they should be allowed to do so, whatever the opinions of others may be. After all, are we not told daily that one of the fundamentals of democracy is the freedom of association.

The attitude of the University authorities regarding politics in Malaya is very encouraging. But I am forced to ask whether they are going to decide what is best for this country. Do the University authorities intend to dictate to us how we should progress?

G. J. P.

(The opinions expressed in the above letter are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board — Ed.)

Skull and Crossbones

by 13th Rib

(Undergrad Medical Woman Correspondent)

The Hostels Committee Business

It seems to me that the women students of this Faculty are at last awakening to questions of procedure and other constitutional matters for there can be no other interpretation of the arguments which developed over at Holne Chase last week. A meeting of the Hostel had been convened on the instructions of the Hostels Committee for the purpose of discussing certain rules and regulations that would facilitate the work of the Committee. Arising out of this meeting, there arose a constructive debate on the powers of the Chairman and those of the Secretary. Opinions were varied as to whether the Chairman was the "boss" of the Committee and whether she could dictate her views or not.

The argument waxed loud and catfish for over a week and various Union officials, past and present, were approached for their advice on procedure. The most unfortunate victim of this desire for advice on procedure was the General Secretary of the Union who was pulled out of bed one night when he was down with a splitting headache.

To some who watched the argument from yonder Holne Chase hedge, it must have struck them as strange that no real purpose has been served by the additional items on the Agenda. The only purpose—if it may be so described—was the opportunity for some people to let off steam. The following conversation provides an interesting sidelight on this discussion:

First Voice: But who has more right to determine the Agenda than me, the Chairman?

Second Voice: Indeed? I have even more right than you for has not the Member in Council more right than you?

First Voice: (plaintively) Yes, la! Some people are so silly. I only wanted "General" in the interests of the members!

Second Voice: (more plaintively) No, la! You doh-noh these people lah. As if they cannot see that it only for the interests of the members.

Third Voice: Surely, everybody has the interests of members at heart. But in the interests of members, they be spread the pain of hearing nonsense and hen-quarrels which is quite often what "General" means to people.

First Voice: But.....(Even eavesdropping has its limits).

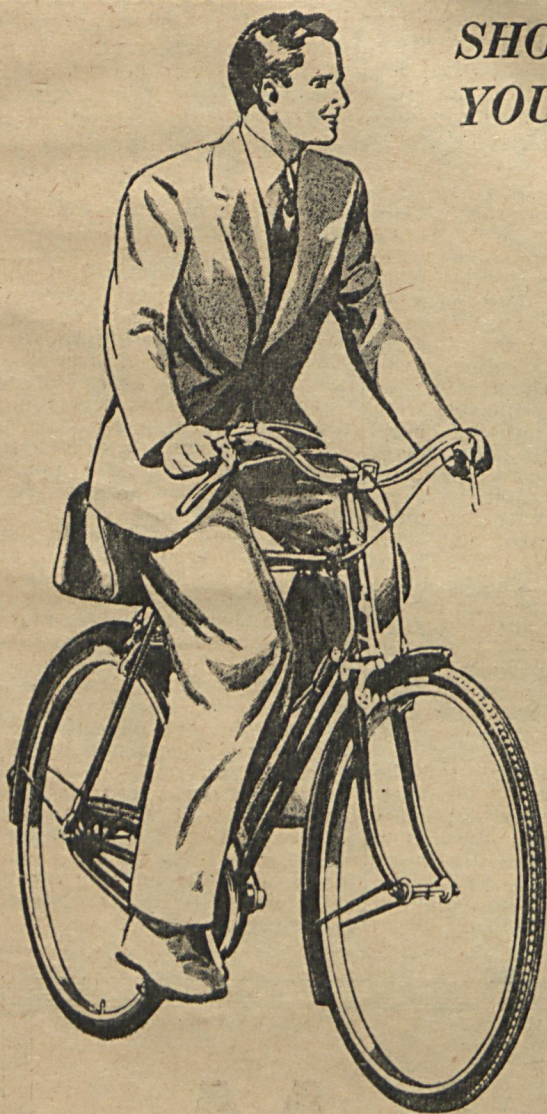
Holne Chase Club:

All those guests who attended the "Sing Song Night" organised by the Holne Chase Club really admired the novel evening's entertainment. The spacious grounds in Grange Road were converted into a Fairyland with a thousand and one lights — with pretty shadows, lovely perfume, gorgeous dresses, sweet voices and good cheer.

The Executive Committee of the Union must be grateful, too, for the best laughing tonic they have had in years when they were required to study the Holne Chase Club Constitution. Rumour has it — no member of the Executive was prepared to confirm it — that it was a first-class scream in the anomalies, inconsistencies and ludicrousities that the Executive found it humanly impossible to keep a straight face. Could some worthy member of the Executive please confirm this? I hear too that the Constitution has since been withdrawn for redrafting and re-adoption, this time with the able advice of some of the Union's constitutional experts.

Tailpiece:

Who was the mammal that found its backbone?..... Aren't there many in the University anyway!



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SOCCER SEASON GETS OFF TO FINE START

At Mt. Emily

U M A U APPEAL

The University of Malaya Athletic Union, in formulating its policy for the year, stresses on units based on residential greater activities between grounds and provision for more members to take part. The swimming and Physical Culture Departments are being revived and the response so far has been very good. The Executive Committee hopes that with the co-operation of all its members much more can be done to promote sports activities.

The Executive Committee will be only too glad to receive suggestions and comments from members. So please write in and give the UMAU benefit of your suggestions. Please address all communications to the Hon. Secretary, U.M.A.U.

NON-HOSTELITES SKITTLED FOR 11

In the opening game of the Inter Hostel Cricket Tourney which is being played on a knockout system, the Non Hostelites team received a severe thrashing at the hands of the F.M.S.-Paterson XI at Sepoy Lines on Saturday, 24 Feb.

The combined hostel team with Bhupalan, Umapathy, Poopathy, Harcharan Singh and Lee Chin Tuan in its ranks was certainly a formidable ensemble. Electing to bat first, the Hostelites made merry against a very weak attack and in the 140 mins. allotted them amassed the very fine score of 221 runs for 3 wickets.

Harcharan Singh when 8 runs short of his century was nicely caught by Delikan, while Cheng Siang gracefully retired after hitting a bright 58.

The Non Hostelites who were at best a scratch team fell easy prey to Umapathy and Bhupalan who besides keeping a good length were breaking the ball both ways. Between them these two bowlers did the unbelievable and in a merry procession bundled the non hostelites for a mere 11 runs.

In fairness to the Non Hostelites it must be put on record that they were without the services of their cricketing stalwarts, namely S. D. Williams, George Paul, Chia Kim Boon, Chia Kim Hui and R. Mosbergen all of whom for one reason or other could not play on that day.

F Block Win Soccer Cup

The crowd of students who turned up to witness the Inter-Block finals at Bukit Timah on were treated to a fast and keenly contested game. F Block, the favourites, managed to win by a solitary goal, but E Block were by no means disgraced. What they lacked in skill, they made up for indetermination, and at times were unlucky not to have scored.

Midway in the first half, during a raid by F Block, the ball was deflected into the goal by an E Block defender, and interval saw F Block leading by a solitary goal. On the resumption, F Block tried hard to increase their score, but their efforts were foiled by a

(Continued at foot of next col.)

R.A.F. (Tengah) Beaten 4-1

THE University soccer team taking the field for the first time this season exceeded even our fondest hopes to play constructive soccer, beating the R. A. F. (Tengah) XI by four goals to one at Bukit Timah on Wednesday last.

Their fine show confounded lounge critics who tut-tutted and bemoaned the loss of former soccer stalwarts who are now on the "retired list". But it was clearly evident that the Varsity side lacked sufficient practice.

In the initial stages the Varsity playing an un-coordinated game allowed themselves to be swamped and they have Leembruggen to thank for keeping the goal intact. The wingers too were lamentably starved, a defect that was remedied in the latter stages once the team gradually settled down.

The game served to show that the Varsity has a forward line which shows promise of better things to come. The wingers, Pathansali and Thiagarajan were untiring in their efforts. Pathansali in particular was outstanding with his fine centring and besides netting one himself was responsible for two more. Eng Siang as expected played an energetic part in the Varsity raids—in short a captain's game.

Ghani at centre half was another who caught the eye with fine positional play. He would definitely be an asset in any Senior local team.

The Airmen who had the services of Combined Services player, Dover, in their ranks were a well knit side but poor finishing and bad luck cost them their game. Their centre-forward, Gillespie, played with dash and verve and was always a danger to the Varsity defence.

From the start it was the Airmen who attacked and gave the Varsity defence a few anxious moments when they forced two corners when the game was hardly five minutes old.

But our defence was equal to the occasion and the ball was safely booted to midfield. But the Airmen maintained the pressure and Leembruggen was tested with long drives which he collected safely.

The Varsity forwards could only get going in sporadic

resolute defence. However the last ten minutes saw E Block taking the offensive. A number of corners were forced but luck was against them and the final whistle saw F Block emerge first winners of the Menon-Rajaretnam cup.

Mr. Lim Cheng Pah, Vice-President of the UMAU, after congratulating the winners on their win, called on Mrs. Huang to give away the cup to the captain of the — F Block team.

raids at this juncture but lack of understanding thwarted their attempts to open up scoring.

Ten minutes before the interval the Varsity made amends. In a copy book movement, Pathansali trapping the ball sent over a peach of a centre right across the goal-mouth to Thiagarajan. From Thiagarajan the ball was received by Eng Siang who being nicely positioned beat the Airmen's goalie all the way with a first timer.

Some pep talk during the five minutes respite from our coach had the desired effect. The change of ends saw the wingers being fed at last. Pathansali sent over one of his fine centres and R. Mosbergen using his head to advantage took Lowrie by surprise to put Varsity two up.

The Airmen undaunted came on determined to score and score they did. Inside-right, Morly, receiving the ball off a corner sent in a tame shot which slipped through to make the score two-one.

But the Varsity was too set to be rattled and they made victory doubly sure when Thiagarajan and Pathansali netted two more before the final whistle.

Cpl. Lees refereed and the teams were:—

University: G. Leembruggen; Tseng Yuen Lin, B.K. Sen; Teh Kok Chiang Abdul Ghani, Kassim Hussein; P.L. Thiagarajan, Azizul Rahman, R. Mosbergen, Lim Eng Siang, Pathansali.

R.A.F. (Tengah): Lowrie; Fisher, Murphy; Warna, Dover, Thompson; Mathews, Morly, Gillespie, Hurrell, Standworth.

Pates to Coach Varsity

Mr. R.B.I. Pates who coached the Singapore soccer team to victory in the Malaya Cup Competition last year has consented to act as honorary coach to the University Soccer team.

His wealth of experience and talent should prove invaluable to our soccer players. He was a critical observer at the opening game of the season when the Varsity XI defeated the R.A.F. (Tengah).



The swimming schedule for this term is being run off smoothly thanks to the enthusiastic support of UMAU members. With a few more Wednesday afternoons at Mt. Emily we should find our swimmers being able to find their true form. Pictured above some of our swimmers indulging in some horseplay at the shallow end of the pool. Photo by Chan Kee Kok.

Visitors Win At Table Tennis

In a game of conflicting styles, the three man University table tennis team went down to the visiting Philippines Chinese team by 5 games to 1, in a friendly match played at Harrower Hall on Monday, Feb. 19.

The visiting Chinese adopted a peculiar hard grip and although possessing a few strokes outplayed the Varsity by their deadly accuracy.

Our players possessed a wider variety of strokes and although playing attractive table tennis could not pierce the defence of the Chinese visitors. The Varsity lost many points through smashing wide.

Nen Khiong, University table tennis champ, confounded critics when his defence—one of his strong points—surprisingly

cracked up. Brian La Brooy playing extremely well had the distinction of taking the only game for the Varsity.

Federal Win On Extra Time

A goal scored by Loh Fook Seng during the ten minutes extra time enabled Federal Hall to beat the Non-Hostellites by two goals to one at Bukit Timah on Friday, 2nd March.

Despite having only ten men in the field in the first half the Non Hostellites put up a creditable show and were the first to draw blood when Eng Siang netted off a pass from Stephen Sim. Federal Hall replied shortly when Yap Kin Yin notched the equaliser.

The second half was equally hard fought but the forwards of both teams could make no headway against stubborn defences and the issue could only be settled after extra time had been allowed.

CHESS CHATS by Passed Pawn

THE Singapore Chess Championship is a sort of competition quite different from the Malayan Championship. In the former, the tournament is spread over a considerable space of time, allowing players a respite between rounds. Ten weeks are normally occupied by this tournament and the ten rounds thoroughly test the abilities of the players.

In the Malayan Championship the difficulty of assembling players from different parts of Malaya necessitates the tournament taking place within a few days. Games have to be played off close to each other and this kind of "congress chess" calls for intense and sustained effort on the part of the players. In most countries, national championship or even state championships are played off during a congress lasting on the average a fortnight with one game being played each day. In Malaya, however, we have found it impracticable to adopt such a leisurely pace as few of our players can afford to take off more than 3 — 4 days at most from their work. Consequently we play off the Tournament in three days with two games a day.

This year's congress will be held in Singapore during Easter and the majority of players taking part will be those now playing in the Singapore Championship. It would be most interesting to compare final placings in both events.

R.W. Borsodi leads the field in the Singapore Championship with 7 wins in 7 rounds, aided and abetted by the lamentably incapable play of Tan Kah Hong and Dr. Lim Kok Ann both losing in won positions. In Dr. Lim's case, he blundered in time trouble when he had material and positional advantages, lost a couple of pawns and had to resign after a woeful uphill struggle. Kah Hong's case was even sadder for he obtained a winning attack with packets of time, one hour on his clock against seven minutes on Borsodi's. Instead of checking with the Queen and given mate in a few moves — a combination seen by everyone else in the room, including Borsodi—he chose to check with a Bishop, found himself left without any checks and lost in a few moves.

These remarks are not intended to belittle Borsodi's achievements so far, but rather to enhance them in the sense that against strong play albeit with lapses, he has consistently emerged the winner.

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